



Republican Members of Congress: Enforcement First

On Tuesday, several House Republicans, including some who participated in this past week's immigration field hearings took to the floor during one-minute debate.

The full text of these speeches and other helpful resources can be found at <http://kingston.house.gov/enforcementfirst>.

Speech Excerpts:

"The unfortunate fact is that we live in a time when terrorists want to hit us as hard as they can. And it is elementary that to defend ourselves against these determined and resourceful enemies, our border must be secure or, as the Border Patrol says, '**We must have operational control of the border.**' We don't have that right now, and we don't have that despite a tenfold increase in what Republicans have done to fund homeland security.

"But we need border fencing. And in Laredo, Texas, **sheriffs told us of drug cartels and smuggling rings increasingly well equipped and more brazen than ever in attacking law enforcement officials.** The Border Patrol warns of potential terrorists employing these networks to enter our country. Last year, it apprehended illegal border crossers from many countries designated state sponsors of terrorism or countries where terrorist organizations are active.

"The sheriffs we heard from strongly seconded the Border Patrol's concerns about terrorists crossing our porous borders. **Colleagues, immigration reform must be national security reform.**" -[Rep. Ed Royce](#)

"Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to talk about the border security hearings we held last week in California and Texas. I attended the hearing in California and noted with interest the comments of Sheriff Rick Flores of Webb County,

Texas, who said in response to our questions that the first goal of this government, and **our first priority, should be enforcement of the law and enforcement of our borders.**" - [Rep. J.D. Hayworth](#)

"Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman *Royce* for holding a hearing in Imperial Beach in San Diego County this week. And I think there was one very clear message, that **amnesty is the greatest mistake that we could have**, not only for immigration, but for common sense, and if not for common decency, that we should not reward those who have broken our immigration laws while people, millions, wait to immigrate legally." - [Rep. Brian Bilbray](#)

"Mr. Speaker, today I rise to invite the Senate to join the House in debating how we are going to address illegal entry into this country. We are hearing from our colleagues today reporting back on the hearings that we are holding around the country, talking with sheriffs, talking with Border Patrol, talking to people on the ground. We are hearing the same thing: stop illegal crossings. **It is time. Get this problem under control.**" - [Rep. Marsha Blackburn](#)

"Today, hundreds of illegal immigrants will cross our southern border. Some of them will be criminals, some gang members. I pray that none are terrorists. But the truth is that no one knows. **A nation without borders ceases to be a nation, which is why securing our border must be the first step in any comprehensive reform plan.**" - [Rep. Jeb Hensarling](#)

"Mr. Speaker, House Democrats have been talking a lot about their agenda lately, but each and every time they fail to mention border security or immigration reform, and I suppose for good reason. **With their lackluster record on immigration reform, I can understand why they hesitate to bring up the issue.**" - [Rep. Virginia Foxx](#)

"Mr. Speaker, the Washington Times reported today that a Senate immigration bill, the Kennedy bill, would prohibit State and local police from helping Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials combat illegal immigration. **The Senate bill bars State and local police from detaining aliens simply for being in the U.S. illegally.** Police could arrest the aliens only if they commit certain additional violations of Federal immigration law." - [Rep. Patrick McHenry](#)

"Mr. Speaker, more news from the front. **Our battle for the border continues**, and so does the hypocrisy from El Presidente Generalissimo Fox. So intent on

tearing down American barriers, he is more intent on building his own, and he has taken millions of U.S. taxpayer dollars to do it.” -[Rep. Ted Poe](#)

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